

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested:

Claims 3, 9-10, 16 and 18-19 are pending, with claims 3, 9-10, 16 and 18-19 amended, and claims 1-2, 8, 14-15 and 17 cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Claims 3, 9-10, 16 and 18-19 are independent.

In the Official Action, claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; claims 1 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ijtsma (U.S. Patent No. 6,606,285); and claims 2, 8 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Ijtsma and Ko (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2001/0033537). Claims 3, 16 and 18-19 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. No prior art was applied as a basis of rejection for claims 9 and 10. Thus, Applicant assumes claims 9 and 10 have been found to contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant traverses the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and notes that each feature in question is recited in the original base claims, which have been copied into the currently pending claims.

Allowable claims 3, 9-10, 16 and 18-19 are amended into independent form, including the base claim and all intervening claims. No new matter is added. Thus, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance.

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael E. Monaco, Reg. No. 52,041, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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